

CLAIMS

1. A swab assembly comprising an outer housing and an inner hollow tubular member having swab material attached to one end thereof and a seal provided at another end, a predetermined quantity of a reagent being held in said tubular member between said swab material and said seal but spaced from said swab material by capillary action, said inner hollow tube being adapted to be frangible adjacent said seal wherein, at least a part of said external housing is formed of resiliently deformable material whereby said frangible part of said tubular member can be fractured by deformation of said part of said external housing thereby allowing said reagent to flow onto said swab material.
2. A swab assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the outer housing is formed in at least two interengageable housing parts.
3. A swab assembly according to Claim 1 wherein an end of the hollow tubular member is nonreleasably secured to one said housing part for ease of handling.
4. A swab assembly according to Claim. 1 wherein the frangible part is formed as an area of reduced thickness as compared to the remainder of the tubular member.
5. A swab assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the swab material is formed of a textile or foamed plastics material.

6. A swab assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the material comprises cotton or a synthetic cloth.
7. A swab assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the material comprises a sponge material.
8. A swab assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the inner tubular member is formed from a plastics material.
9. A swab assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the diameter of the inner tubular member is in the range 0.5 to 10.0 mm.
10. A swab assembly according to Claim 8, wherein the diameter of the inner tubular member is in the range of 0.5 to 3.0 mm.
11. A swab assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the seal comprises wax or silicon.
12. A swab assembly according to Claim: 1, wherein the seal comprises a heat seal or crimping in the tubular member.

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